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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

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Letter dated 7 March 1995 from the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

With reference to the address made by the representative of Albania at the fifty-first session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, on 6 March 1995, we must note with regret that again, as it did at the previous sessions of the Commission, Albania is abusing this prestigious body for its political action which it has been conducting for years against Serbia while at present it is being directed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, under the disguise of alleged concern for the status of the Albanian minority living in its territory.

The speech delivered by the Albanian representative constitutes yet another example of flagrant interference of the Republic of Albania in the internal affairs of a sovereign State, in this case the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and an overt attack against its territorial integrity. In this connection, it is most indicative that the representative of Albania has never mentioned the name of the State where the Albanian minority lives - the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - while the members of this minority have been referred to as Albanians, as if they were the citizens of Albania.

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With regard to the fact that the accusations made by the Albanian representative at the previous session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the alleged "occupation", "colonization" and "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo and Metohija and elsewhere have not been acknowledged by large-scale international support owing to the blatant fact that they were not true, new senseless designs are being concocted, with the alleged arrangements for and inciting of an armed conflict by the legitimate authorities of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia being in the foreground.

The allegation that the authorities of one country are conscientiously endeavouring to incite a civil war in their own territory is decidedly absurd to all, with the exception of the Government of Albania, which is evidently longing for its outbreak, harbouring illusions that a secession of Kosovo and Metohija and its annexation to Albania are to be the outcome of this conflict. Such an approach is also illustrative of Tirana's readiness to render its support and that it will indeed be supporting the Albanian separatists, even in case of their violent armed secession, which is very threatening indeed.

Mr. Chairman,

It is a notorious fact that Albania is making every effort to support and promote the secessionist movement of the Albanian minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by encouraging it to denounce and boycott the State it is living in and by inciting its civil disobedience and non-participation in the political and social life of the country, thus consciously pushing further the separation of the Albanian minority from other citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Such a policy of Albania is in contravention of the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Final Document of the Conference on the Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Paris Charter; it is a far cry from good neighbour relations and contrary to the interests of the region.

I request you kindly, Mr. Chairman, to circulate this letter as an official document of the fifty-first session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, under item 12.

(signed): Vladimir Pavicevic